

Did You Know What is the Soldier and Family Assistance Center (SFAC)?

What is an SFAC?

Soldier and Family Assistance Centers are comprehensive, centralized locations that provide a variety of services for WTU Soldiers and their Families. Dedicated staff and liaisons are available to counsel WTU Soldiers and Families on recovery and transition topics, such as personal finances, education and employment.

Where are the SFACs located?

SFACs are located wherever there is a <u>Warrior</u> <u>Transition Unit (WTU)</u>. Twenty of these locations have newly-designed, stand-alone SFAC facilities.

When can I use the SFAC?

Squad Leaders escort each new WTU Soldier and his/her Family to the SFAC within the first 30 days of arrival at a WTU. While use of the SFAC facilities and resources is voluntary following this initial visit, Soldiers and Families are encouraged to enhance their WTU experiences with SFAC resources. They are open during regular business hours, with exceptions for evening office hours, classes and events.

What is inside the SFAC?

All SFACs have offices where the SFAC staff can meet with WTU Soldiers and Families. All of the new SFAC facilities include a large lobby with televisions and fireplaces, a meeting area for Families to gather in, a kitchen snack area, daycare information and a larger conference room/classroom. SFACs also have computer rooms for Soldiers to research job opportunities or work on continuing education opportunities.



Golfer Brittany Lincicome plays ping pong with Staff Sgt. Kenneth Sargent, Company B, Fort Carson Warrior Transition Battalion, at an event at the Soldier and Family Assistance Center.

Who works at the SFAC?

SFAC personnel specialize in human resources, social services, educational counseling, transition assistance and more. The number of staff members assigned to each SFAC is based on the size of the WTU, but every SFAC has a minimum of two dedicated employees.

SFACs also host liaison staff from other Army and State and Federal programs, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), <u>Defense Finance and Accounting Services (DFAS)</u> and others that can provide additional specialized assistance. Additionally, there is a U.S. Army Wounded Warrior Program (AW2) Advocate located at each SFAC to assist the most severely wounded, ill and injured Soldiers and their Families.

What resources does the SFAC provide?

SFAC employees and liaisons provide resources and assistance in nearly every area of a Soldier's recovery and transition. SFAC employees assess individual and Family needs, provide information, make service referrals and follow up with Soldiers and Families as appropriate. Specifically, WTU Soldiers and Families can work with the SFAC on:

- Human resource assistance: SFAC employees help Soldiers and their Families navigate Federal, state and military benefit systems and linking them with related resources.
- **Social services:** Soldiers and Families may receive screenings and evaluations for referral, crisis intervention and professional services for treatment as appropriate.
- Financial counseling: Soldiers and Families come to the SFAC for help with personal budgeting, spending plans, long-term and estate planning, <u>Traumatic Servicemembers'</u> <u>Group Life Insurance (TSGLI)</u> and more.
- Transition and employment assistance:
 <u>Army Career and Alumni Program (ACAP)</u>,
 transition benefits and services, coordination
 with other service providers, employment
 assistance training and Soldier preparation for
 the Federal and civilian employment market
 are all available through the SFAC, to support
 the <u>Comprehensive Transition Plan (CTP)</u>
 career goals developed with the <u>Transition Coordinator</u>.

- Educational counseling: Staff provides onsite education support and counseling services, such as General Technical Score improvement classes, assistance with education benefits and introduction to the GoArmyEd internet service.
- Child, youth and school services: Select SFACs provide hourly child care and other youth programs, child care information, as well as coordination with services such as the Exceptional Family Member Program and Morale Welfare and Recreation (MWR) Activities.
- Defense Finance and Accounting Services
 (DFAS): Soldiers receive assistance navigating
 DFAS. Experts can guide Soldiers and their
 Families with military pay support, travel
 advances and travel settlements on DFAS.

Where can I find more resources?

- Soldier and Family Assistance Centers
- U.S. Army Child, Youth and School Services
- Army Career and Alumni Program (ACAP)
- U.S. Army Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation Programs
- Exceptional Family Member Program